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## SAMPAN

A Biweekly Publication of the Chinese American Civic Association

## Unhappy workers assail government with criticism

Jobless garment stitchers hold rally to voice impatience over delayed aid

by Peter Bagley

Nearly six months after the P & L factory closure, jobless stitchers, annoyed by what they consider a government run-around in releasing unemployment benefits, rallied on the State House front steps to voice their impatience on May 21.

After marching in front of the capitol building, about 150 workers, most of them Chinese women, converged in the Boston Common to hear a roster of speakers rail against the city and state for its delays in producing benefits for the laid off garment workers.

"We condemn the state for five months of delay and neglect. It shouldn't have to be that these women must strive at every turn," said Soyun Roe,

co-chair of the Workers' Support Committee, a group formed to generate public support for the unemployed stitchers.

P & L Sportswear Company of East Boston yielded to pinched economic times in the garment industry and closed its doors abruptly on December 1 last year, laying off 349 workers, many of whom live in Chinatown.

The state Department of Employment Security ordinarily enters the scene in such a case to help unemployed workers who are displaced through a factory shutdown. DES decides the amount of unemployment compensation and examines the special requirements of workers such as needed job retraining.

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## Holiday's origins go back over two thousand years

The Dragon Boat Festival, the age-old holiday from the era of Warring States in China, will fall this year on June 11.

Little fanfare, however, will accompany the arrival of the festival this time around. In prior years the Children's Museum of Boston was a leading organizer of the

1983. This year will see no popular celebration to mark the holiday.

Perhaps it is only fitting that holiday-lovers despair this year, as did poet Ch'u Yuan, whose self-immolation led to the annual, summer-time festival.

During the volatile Warring States Period (413-221



A dragon boat traverses the Charles River during the festival in 1983

festival, which was held during the Cambridge River Festival.

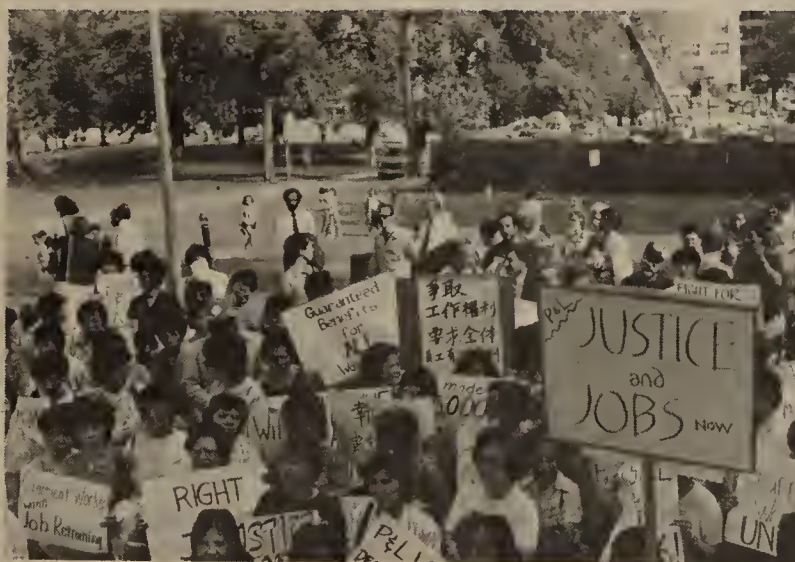
A Dragon Boat Festival Committee was also formed in subsequent years, and representatives from many Asian groups around Boston participated in the annual event.

But that all died down in

B.C.), Ch'u Yuan, a noble of the state of Ch'u, was sent into exile after political opponents banished him from the court for his pacifist ideas.

Ch'u lamented during his exile, writing poems about the Chou Dynasty, which was crumbling due to the divisive wars of the time.

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Crowd of former P &amp; L workers gather in the Boston Common to hear speakers

## Changing economics takes its toll of garment firms, unions, and workers

Fliers handed out by the Workers' Support Committee have portrayed the P & L crisis as one not only affecting a small group of jobless stitchers, but also one impacting a neighborhood at large.

"Much of an entire community will find itself without health insurance coverage," asserts a fact sheet produced by the WSC about the crisis.

Although only 200 of the 349 workers laid off by P & L are Chinese, they are indeed a large fraction of the women in Chinatown employed in the garment industry, said to be 1,100 by one estimate.

And observers can confidently say that Chinatown, where women are so concentrated in one industry (73%), will be seeing more problems such as the P & L closure in the future.

The city's Economic Development and Industrial Corporation has reported a drop in the number of firms and employees in the apparel industry for each year over the past decade.

Between 1977 and 1983 the industry shrank 22 percent, according to the EDIC. And from 1981 to 1983, 92 firms closed or moved out of Boston altogether. About half of them were in

Chinatown.

Small apparel firms were hardest hit. They have been forced out of Chinatown by commercial expansion and skyrocketing rents.

The biggest intrusion to Chinatown's garment industry recently was the move of 11 garment companies from Kneeland Street to the old Army Base Building 114 in South Boston from 1982 to 1983.

The city government and federal government stepped in at the time to help renovate the ar-

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Agencies assert they are providing help to workers

by Peter Bagley

The state and city government would not budge on providing unemployment benefits to former P & L employees, say some community organizers, until the garment workers started raising a raucous.

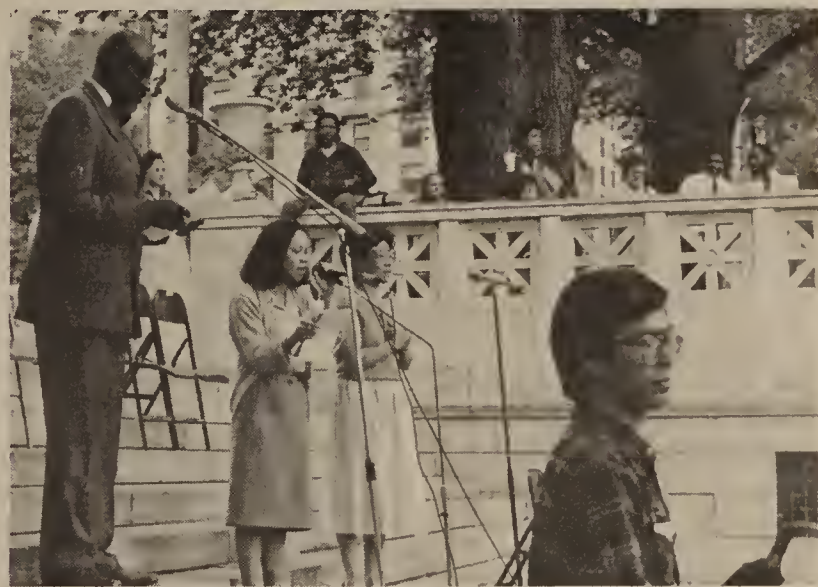
The Workers' Support Committee for the former P & L garment workers continues to point out that when Colonial Provisions Products Company closed down last year in Roxbury, the state Department of Employment Security set up a job retraining program in several days.

In addition, workers received two months formal notice before the plant closure. But at P & L workers were laid off the same week of a shutdown notification, which was initially anticipated one month away.

"I'm concerned about some of the things that have been said," said Beverly Wing, deputy director of the Mayor's Office of Services (JCS), of the P & L charges against the DES.

"Concerning their accusations that some were dragging their feet, we've done more in two

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Congressional Candidate Mel King castigates Governor Dukakis at P &amp; L rally

## Asian population surpasses five million

There were 5.1 million Asian Americans living in the United States as of September 1985, up nearly 50 percent over the 3.5 million counted in the 1980 census, and that figure could rise to 10 million by the year 2000, according to *Asian Americans: Growth, Change and Diversity*, a study released by the private, nonprofit Population Reference Bureau of Washington, D.C.

Although only 2.1 percent of the total U.S. population is Asian American, their numbers are increasing much faster than that of blacks and Hispanics and, barring major changes in U.S. immigration policy, could total nearly 10 million by the year 2000, the report said.

Unlike earlier immigrants from Asia, who were

predominantly uneducated laborers, today's Asian Americans are generally outperforming even the white majority in the classroom and workplace, say study authors Robert Gardner, Bryant Robey and Peter Smith, though some — particularly the latest arrived Indochinese refugees — still fall short of the popular image of a "model minority," the term many leading Asian Americans dislike and view as condescending.

Leon Bouvier, who projects the population figures, agreed that there has been some criticism of the term "model minority," which is applied to someone who is taking in all sorts of abuse and does not speak up.

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# Adverse economic times . . . Garment workers focus of State House rally

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my base building for the firms to avert factory shutdowns.

The state Division of Employ-

workforce had dwindled to 6,700. Figures released by the U.S. Department of Commerce show a similar erosion of the industry and the work force.



Garment workers demonstrate at State Capitol Building

ment Security reported that in 1965 about 15,000 workers were employed in the apparel industry in Boston. By 1983 the

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## The SAMPAN

Editor-in-Chief:  
Gloria Chun

English Editor:  
Peter F. Bagley

Business Manager:  
Swan Liong Oey

Chinese Section:  
Hinh Chau, Betty Hok-Ming Lam  
Minh Ly, Gloria Shiao

Design and Layout:  
Peter Bagley, Gloria Shiao

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Imports of inexpensive clothing and the threat of commercial expansion continue to take their toll of apparel firms today.

While the garment firms suffer during this decline, so does their foe and watchdog, the International Ladies Garment Workers Union (ILGWU), at one time one of the strongest unions in the country.

Because of the attrition over the years, the union has become increasingly powerless, desperately holding on to its declining membership.

In Boston the ILGWU has been accused of turning down retraining programs for the laid off employees of P & L, routing them instead into other garment industry jobs which have an uncertain future.

"We have no comment," said Nathan Sandler, ILGWU manager in Boston, about the charges. When asked about union membership, Sandler said, "We don't give out any information about the union to anyone. It's distorted when it's released."

For a union which has strong representation from the Chinese community, it has been criticized over the years for paying little heed to its Chinese members. In 1980 when workers complained that in-house union publications did not include Chinese, Milton Kaplan, manager of that time, told The Sampan, "That's too damn bad [if they can't read English]."

The union has blasted against the Reagan Administration for not reducing imports and has fought many unsuccessful battles to sustain its control over garment production.

The union, which galvanized its support and grew after the Triangle Shirtwaist Company fire, which killed 146 garment workers in New York in 1911, has seen its membership drop 40 percent from 450,000 to 280,000 over the past 15 years.

The union complains that the vilified sweatshops of earlier times have returned, particularly in New York's immigrant communities. Those small opera-

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But it is the view of many workers and community organizers that the government is dawdling in the P & L case, uninterested in removing the snags in getting the stitchers back in the work force.

Community organizers point out that the state rushed to help the workers of earlier plant closures, such as the Colonial Provisions Products Company shutdown last year.

The most jittery concern of the garment workers is the expiration of their union health benefits on June 1. The Workers' Support Committee says that the garment workers union health insurance provides the only medical safeguard for most of the stitchers' families since many of the workers' husbands are employed by restaurants offering no medical benefits.

"You're showing the state and the city that you're not going away," said Brian Lang, a former union shop steward at Colonial Provisions, at the State House rally "You're not going away until you get what you deserve."

Lang faulted the government's lag in producing benefits to racism. "There's no excuse for such a delay," Lang said. "There's no other answer to this than racism because the majority of the workers are Chinese women."

## Who runs P & L Sportswear Company?

P & L, the manufacturer of suits, shirts, and coats, has not dissolved, even though the company, which at one time employed up to 1,000 persons, has laid off all its garment workers.

Two persons sit on the board of directors: Sabatino J. Abate, of 58 Windsor Street in Everett, and Linda Abate, of 177 Springvale Avenue.

The president and treasurer of the company is also Sabatino J. Abate. The clerk is named Sabatino Abate, but it is unclear if he is the same person as P & L's president since his address is listed at 190 Kennedy Drive in Malden.

The company, located on 440 McClellan Highway in East Boston, was incorporated by Louis and Majorie Abate, of 418 Revere Beach Parkway in Revere, and Julia Farnum, who at the time lived at 466 Commonwealth Avenue.

While the family operation has not dissolved, its earnings are not listed in its annual report. But it is known the company does not gross as much as \$1 million per year.

tions, which provide poor lighting and ventilation, pay below minimum wage, the ILGWU says.

Experts say sweatshops, with low overhead costs, have risen to meet the challenge of foreign imports. While garment workers earn more than their foreign craftsmen overseas, their salaries are still dismal by American terms — a piecework wage system can bring in anywhere from \$1 to \$9 a hour for a worker.

In the 1950s, about 80 percent of the garment workers were organized in unions. Today labor authorities say only 25 percent of garment workers are organized.

Seto Hing, a member of the Workers' Committee, which represents former P & L employees, said to The Sampan during the rally, "As citizens we want the same access to what's available to other Americans."

"Six months is no excuse for any type of delay," Hing complained. This month she will watch her family's health insurance vanish completely. Her husband, a self-employed mechanic, has no medical insurance.

And already the mother of two children is facing hard times. Hing's unemployment compen-

## P & L Workers' Demands

- immediate release of funds to retrain P & L workers.
- guaranteed job placement assistance for each worker.
- increase funding of programs for displaced workers.
- enforcement of affirmative action for minorities.
- state money for health insurance for P & L workers.
- state health insurance program for all unemployed residents of the state.
- strengthen legislation to help protect workers against the effects of plant closures.
- P & L input into state's decision-making.
- P & L workers' review and selection of assistance programs.

sation amounts to only 60 percent of her former salary (not much to start since most garment workers earn about \$6,000 a year).

During the rally Congressional Candidate Mel King said, "You all have a right to full employment and comprehensive health insurance."

"Governor Dukakis," King shouted, "come down here now and tell these people you're going to fill their needs."

Participants in the rally armed themselves with signs and placards, some of which read, "We want to work. We should have the right to a job." Others said, "Affirmative action for Asian women" and "Garment workers want job retraining."

Roe of the Workers' Support Committee said during the rally, "We're here to draw public attention and broaden our base of support. It's an attempt to make ourselves heard."

In her view, the government has been slow to respond to the garment workers' pleas since they have conducted their dialogue quietly.

Co-chair Jason Tong of the Workers' Support Committee said that by contrast the mere threat of the May 21 rally prodded the government into action. State Secretary of Labor Paul J. Eustace apologized to the Workers' Support Committee for the on-going delays in disbursing benefits, Tong said, and the city set up a Workers' Support Center one week prior to the rally.

Lang at another point said the state only hears complaints when workers are galvanized into united action. "It's a matter of workers organizing themselves and exercising political muscle," Lang said.

When it became apparent securing job benefits would not be an easy task, P & L employees formed the Workers' Committee to communicate with the state and city. The Workers' Support Committee plays the role of liaison.

Many of the WSC's 15 to 20 staff members are related to workers in the garment industry. Because most of the Workers' Committee members speak little English, the WSC has taken care of the logistics of putting together the rally, holding meetings, and communicating to the public. But the Workers' Committee charts the course of the WSC, temporarily located at the Chinese Progressive Association office on Beach Street.



## Dragon Boat Festival . . .

## 端午節

Continued from Page 1

Ultimately the Ch'u state would fall, as all others did at the time, to the state of Ch'in, launching the start of the Ch'in Dynasty.

The Dragon Boat Festival commemorates the day when China lost a treasured poet, who took his life on the fifth day of the fifth moon, because he bemoaned the imminent fall of the Chou Dynasty.

Ch'u clutched a large stone, according to legend, and jumped into the Mi-Lo River of Hunan. A fisherman (or fishermen, some believe) rowed over to try to save him. The river was searched, but Ch'u could not be found.

Mourners tossed zong zi, pyramid-shaped, glutinous rice dumplings wrapped in bamboo leaves, into the river so Ch'u's

spirit may rest in peace.

Ch'u is regarded a famous statesman and poet by Chinese. His most famous works include *Li sao* and *Elegies of Ch'u*.

The holiday is usually celebrated with a water race, using boats adorned with dragon heads. Rowers and celebrators on the shore sometimes beat gongs and make noise to ward off the river's demon monster.

The fifth day of the fifth moon is considered the hottest day of the year as the yang force reaches its highest intensity. Amid this hazardous environment, with the heat, humidity, and the beginning of the ascent of yin (dark force), celebrators make it a point to stay outdoors in the fresh air.

— Peter Bagley



## Asian numbers are rising

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The report focuses on the six largest Asian American groups: Chinese (21 percent of the total in 1985), about to be dislodged from first place by Filipinos (20 percent in 1985), followed by Japanese (15 percent), Vietnamese (12 percent in 1985, but growing the fastest of the six groups), Koreans (11 percent) and Asian Indians (10 percent).

Other findings include:

- Except for Vietnamese and some others of the latest arrivals, Asian Americans rank as high or higher than white Americans on the socio-economic ladder.

- The proportion of college graduates among men and women over 25 in all six Asian groups, including Vietnamese, was 35 percent, compared to just 17 percent for white adults.

- Almost all Asian American men and women are more likely than white adults to be in the labor force and less likely to be unemployed.

- The 1980 census recorded the previous year's median per worker income as higher than the white median only for

Japanese, Chinese and Asian Indians; but the median family income for white Americans (\$20,800) was topped by the Asian family median (\$23,000) as a whole and by individual groups, except Vietnamese (\$12,840). Part of the explanation, the authors said, is that upwards of two-thirds of all but Japanese among Asian Americans counted in 1980 were foreign-born and "recent Asian immigrants are making the economic adjustment to life in the U.S. dependent on family support" — living together in extended family households that produce more workers per family.

So individual median income is generally lower than statistics suggest and supports the leading Asian American experts arguments that per capita income among Asian American individuals is lower or no better than those of the white individual income because in Asian family-run businesses, so many family members have to put in long work hours.

- 26 to 47 percent of Chinese, Filipino, Asian Indian and

Japanese in the labor force held jobs in the top occupational category of "managers, professionals and executives" in 1980, compared to 24 percent of white working men and women.

This figure is also constantly challenged by Asian American scholars whose findings show that Asian Americans have difficulties climbing corporate ladders as they encounter subtle barriers and discriminations. For example, corporate leaders view Asian Americans as a "model minority," good in taking orders and carrying them out, but viewed as incapable of providing leadership roles. Asian American executives are also reported to be earning less than their white counterparts in the same managerial positions performing similar functions.

Their study on how Asian Americans are faring was based on the 1980 census, the only source of detailed national data on the different Asian groups. Later survey data permits a look at the some 400,000 Indochinese refugees who have arrived since the 1980 census date.

The 1980 census found 49 percent of Asian Americans are clustered in California and Hawaii and another 9 percent in New York State. Fully 92 percent, compared to 75 percent of the general population, live in metropolitan areas, chiefly Honolulu, San Francisco, Los Angeles and New York City.

(Reprinted from *Ameri-Asia News* of Orlando, Florida)

## Committee strives to clean up Chinatown

by Peter Bagley

The task of sprucing up Chinatown, notorious for its littered streets and dirty sidewalks, is indeed an ambitious one, but one small group wants to do exactly just that.

At its monthly meeting last week, the members of the Chinatown Beautification Coordinating Committee agreed that the first step to a cleaner Chinatown is educating residents about the problems of littering and tossing out garbage.

"We're talking about changing people's lifestyles, so we have to do it as gently as possible," said committee member Amy Guen last week.

Guen and other members of the committee point out that past efforts to clean Chinatown often seem futile, since the neighborhood retains its unkempt, filthy appearance one day after a beautification effort.

The committee, therefore, is resolved to educate litterers in the neighborhood. At its last meeting the committee talked about creating public-message posters bearing a special logo of the Chinatown Gateway on top of a pile of rubble, which would be used to emphasize Chinatown's pollution problems.

"Manpower is no problem in cleaning up Chinatown," said

Yuk Sung, executive director of the Chinese Economic Development Council. "What we have to do is educate the public."

The beautification committee was organized by Amy Guen, board member of South Cove Manor Nursing Home, and representatives from the CEDC and the Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association.

The loosely-formed group is anxious to draw more residents from Chinatown and members from different organizations to its group.

The CEDC has recently been a forerunner in arousing support for Chinatown's cleanup. In late 1984 the CEDC formed the Dr. Stanley Chin Memorial Foundation in honor of the Boston physician committed to Chinatown's beautification. The CEDC also purchased a street sweeper and 20 large, brown receptacles.

The Stanley Chin Foundation will help fund campaigns to upgrade Chinatown, but the beautification committee prefers not to tap the foundation's precious resources and look for other ways to support its efforts.

The problems of narrow streets and a mixture of businesses and apartment dwellings in one area contribute to the difficulty in keeping the neighborhood clean.

Joe Canavan, superintendent of the Department of Public Works, suggested at last week's meeting that parking in Chinatown be prohibited on certain sides of the streets during alternate days to allow access for street sweepers.

Because of tight parking on both sides of Chinatown's streets, Canavan said, street sweepers are unable to squeeze into the narrow roadways late at night to wash them down.

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## Calendar Events

### OCP Activities, June 7 to June 22.

The Organization of Chinese Professionals has planned a few summer activities for June, ranging from a hiking/bird watching trip to New Hampshire on June 7, a canoe trip at the Southbridge Boat House in Concord on June 21, to a Sunday brunch at the Museum of Fine Arts on June 22. Call 734-5744 for more information.

### Japan In Performance, June 9. The

Sound Space ARK, an ensemble of contemporary composers featuring the sounds of flutes, clarinets, harps, percussions, guitars, and pianos, will appear in concert at the New England Life Hall at 8 p.m. The event is being sponsored by the Japan Society of Boston. Call 451-0726 for tickets and information.

### Children's Art Exposition, June 11

to June 20. The Quincy Community After School Program and the Neighborhood Arts Center will present an exhibit and reception for the parents of children participating in the "Best Foot Forward" program on June 11 at the China Trade Center. The "Best Foot Forward" program is a 24-week project to increase children's art skills and personal expression. Over 30 pieces of art works will be shown, including prints, paintings, collages, clay sculptures, and puppets, in the corridors and atrium of the China Trade

Center at 2 Boylston Street until June 20. Call 482-6604 for more information.

### Norfolk County Teachers Association Banquet, June 11.

The NCTA will give a honor award to Lily S. Mooncai of Sheehan School for her distinguished service in the teaching profession at its annual banquet at Lantana's Restaurant in Randolph. Lily Shang Mooncai lives at 40 Endicott Street in Westwood. Call 384-8526 for more information.

### Asians And Marriage Lecture, June 14.

Professor and author Betty Lee Sung will give a lecture titled "Patterns of Intermarriage: The Chinese in New York" at the Cambridge Public Library's Central Square branch on 45 Pearl Street at 4 p.m. The lecture workshop is being sponsored by the National Association of Young Asian Professionals and the Heritage Center of the Cambridge Public Library. A dinner reception follows for those with reservations. Call 253-6443 for more information.

### Chinese Movie, June 14.

The biographical film *Qiu Jin* will be shown at MIT Building 26, Room 100, at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Cambridge. The film is a story about a woman who played

a major role in the uprising against the Qing Dynasty. *Qiu Jin* is noted for introducing feminism into her attempt to destabilize the Qing government. *Qiu Jin* is sponsored by the MIT Association of Visiting Scholars and Students and the US-China Peoples' Friendship Association. The film is in Chinese with English subtitles. Call 491-0577 for information.

### Asian Dance Classes, June 21 to Aug. 2.

The Chinese Cultural Institute is holding a class for the traditional dance routines of China and other Asian countries on Saturdays, 4 to 6 p.m., at 276 Tremont Street. The course will be taught by Ming Ying Zho, a former dancer with the Beijing Chinese Music and Dance Company. A \$120 fee is required for the six week introductory course with an option to continue in intermediate classes.

### CACA Picnic, June 21.

The Chinese American Civic Association will hold a picnic at the Hewlett Packard Company's retreat at Sandwich, Cape Cod at 9:00 a.m. Activities will include boating, swimming, tennis, softball, and volleyball. Donations per car load are required. Call Ginny Chew at 444-6545 or Mary Chin at 731-8122 for information.

### Community Mural Project Meeting, June 23.

The Quincy School Community Council will hold a meeting at the Quincy School auditorium at 6:30 p.m. to discuss the designs for a community mural,

which will reflect the perceptions and feelings of residents about Chinatown and South Cove. It will be located at the QSCC's annex building on 34 Oak Street. The QSCC's final selection of a mural will be based upon community input. Designs are currently on display at the Quincy School hallway until June 27. Call 426-0628 for information.

### English Classes, June 23.

Summer classes for English as a second language will be starting on this day at the International Institute of Boston at 287 Commonwealth Avenue. Registration for the summer term will be held June 16, 17, & 18 from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. The term also includes a new citizenship preparation course. Call 536-1081 for information.

### T'ai-chi Classes, June 24 to Aug. 19.

The Chinese Cultural Institute is holding classes for T'ai-chi, the ancient form of martial arts, often called "shadow boxing," at 276 Tremont Street. In eight basic lessons the course will show how T'ai-chi is used by millions as a physical fitness technique. A \$200 fee is required for the eight week introductory course with an option to continue in intermediate classes. Call 542-4599 for more information.

**Camera View Of China, now until June '30.** A photographic exhibition on China is being held at the Boston Public Library at 666 Boylston Street in the Great Hall of the General Library on the first floor. The show by free-lance photographer Hiroji Kubota from Japan is called *On China*. Call 536-5400 for information.

### Art On The Cultural Revolution, now until July 31.

The Chinese Cultural Institute on 276 Tremont Street is showing abstract paintings in its gallery by Shanghai artist Qui De Shu. The exhibition titled *Fissures and Chasms* reveals Qui's feelings about the marks left on him by the Cultural Revolution. Call 542-4599 for information.

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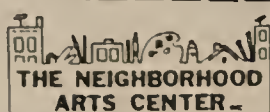
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## City and state repudiate claims of garment workers

Continued from Page 1

and a half weeks than what the DES has done in this time [five months],” Wing said, referring to a new Workers’ Assistance Center set up by the JCS at the Chinese Progressive Association office on Beach Street.

At the DES, however, Joan Brandon, regional director for Boston, said that many of the problems of introducing retraining programs were caused by uncertainty within the DES about the extent of the job development programs.

Brandon said DES was unsure if programs would be provided solely for P & L workers or for dislocated garment workers in general.

Another obstacle to enacting the programs, Brandon said, was the language barrier of the P & L workers, who speak little English. In addition to putting together job training programs, the DES had to organized English as a second language classes, which is not customary for other dislocated workers.

Before an impending plant closure, DES is usually first to enter the scene and meet with factory officials and employees to assess their needs after a shut-down.

Then the Industrial Services Program (ISP), which helps collapsed companies, moves in and allocates federal money for programs to help laid off workers.

DES has an option to become

the lead agency to help the workers of a specific company or assign this responsibility to another government agency. In mid-May, DES asked the Mayor’s Job Training and Community Services agency to fill this role.

Since the JCS takeover, the government has made some headway. The Workers’ Support Center at the CPA office now provides information to P & L workers about job training programs, ESL, and special services. It is staffed by three JCS employees and one former P & L worker. The JCS plans to keep the center, which opened May 14, operating for one year.

Meanwhile, the JCS has contracted various community groups to provide job development services. For example, P & L workers are taking English language tests at the Chinatown Occupational Training Center to determine their English levels to place them in ESL programs.

And the COTC has also started medical office skills training classes and electronic assembly classes for some of the workers, Wing said.

JCS has been asked by the ISP to work within a \$3-350,000 budget to fund the comprehensive programs for the P & L workers.

The DES explains that programs took time to take off because DES spent many of the

## beautification . . .

Continued from Page 3

Although the CEDC’s street sweeper is small, Sung said it has the same difficulty in wedging itself in the roadways. Further, with cars parked on both sides of the road, sweepers cannot drive over littered gutters.

The most nagging problem, however, is the disposal of garbage by Chinatown’s residents and store owners. The city picks up residential garbage three times a week in Chinatown, and the CCBA contracts a private

collector to go around daily to pick up garbage from grocery stores, restaurants, and gift shops.

But it is not easy for collectors to distinguish between residential and commercial garbage among the mounds of rubbish on sidewalks.

Residents are said to be flagrant violators of littering by tossing out their garbage every day, even though collection occurs only three times weekly.

Further, some residents pile rubbish on sidewalks without sealed receptacles. Canavan said that landlords are required to

provide proper receptacles for disposal and suggested the city strictly enforce its codes by fining landlords, whose tenants are improperly throwing out their garbage.

With these problems in mind, the beautification committee is looking for ways to inform residents of the neighborhood about disposing their garbage and raising their consciousness about littering in the streets.

Because the committee is still in its formative stage, it is currently identifying the causes of pollution here and brainstorming on ways to tackle them.

## In the News

The trial of two men who are alleged members of a powerful, underworld Chinese gang is scheduled to be continued on July 24, according to the clerk’s office of the Boston Municipal Court, after starting May 22. **Kee Wei Tung** and **Ken Zhao**, both 19, and one juvenile were arrested in April in Chinatown. Tung and Zhao are charged with carrying firearms without licenses. Zhao’s firearm, which was seized by police, had its serial number defaced. The co-defendants were released from the **Charles Street Jail** after each posted \$25,000 bail. They pleaded not guilty during their arraignment on April 18 to Judge John Piro at the **Suffolk County Courthouse**. According to **The Boston Globe**, the two defendants are considered high-ranking leaders of the New York-based **Ghost Shadows** gang, which is in Boston to challenge the **Ping On**, a local organized crime circle.

\*\*\*\*

A hearing scheduled this week to study the application for an entertainment license for **Peeperama**, a Combat Zone sex shop with peep booths, was canceled because the corporation which operated **Peeperama** at 697 Boylston Street has surrendered its license and closed. **Gene E. Wong**, of 63 Bencliff Circle in Newton, applied for a license to

lease **Peeperama**, but the application was tied up after the **Mayor’s Office of Consumer Affairs and Licensing** learned that **Peeperama**’s current license holder, **Carmine Venturino**, had died last August. Wong, meanwhile, is still waiting to hear what the Licensing Board decides on his request to take over **Capitol Arcade**, another Combat Zone store with peep booths at 701-3 Washington Street. The former operator of **Capitol Arcade** is **John Rolfe**. Both facilities are owned by **Bel-Art Realty** of 4 Ledgewood Road in Woburn.

\*\*\*\*

The **Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce** elected **Billy Y. Chin** vice president at its annual meeting last month at the **Park Plaza Hotel**. The Chamber of Commerce, which has 2,500 participating organizations, most of them small businesses, selected new members to its board, including Chin, at the meeting held on May 21. Chin is president of **China Pearl Restaurant, Inc.**, in Chinatown. His civic affiliations are many, including membership in the **Boston Community Access Foundation**, **Chinatown Boys’ Club**, **Chinese American Civic Association**, **Chinese Economic Development Council**, and the **Gee How Oak Tin Association**. A graduate of **Burdett College**, Chin lives with his wife, **Josephine**, in **Brookline**.

\*\*\*\*

**George S. Pan**, chairman of the board of the **Chinese Economic Development Council**, has taken on a three-year appointment by the **Republic of China Overseas Commission** to promote overseas Chinese affairs and development activities. Pan will participate in one commission within the Overseas Commission, which works closely with representatives from Chinatown and Boston’s suburbs. Pan says he will try to reach out to all cultural, trade, and family associations.

### Correction

The **Sampan** erroneously reported that the **Chinatown Housing and Land Development Task Force** secured a \$30,000 grant from the **Boston Foundation** to fund a **Chinatown master plan** study in its last issue. The **Foundation** has, in fact, not offered that amount, but is simply considering the request from the **Task Force**.

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# 端午節始源於二千年以上

端午節始源於中國戰國時代，而今年將於六月十一日來臨。前幾年波士頓博物館在劍橋河舉辦慶祝端午節活動，而隨著節日到達，至今仍靜悄悄的，毫無動靜。

波士頓曾組有龍舟委員會，係許多亞洲團體派代表參加此一年一度的龍舟競賽。但於一九八三年後逐漸消失。所以今年將不會普遍慶祝此佳節。

由於詩人屈原投河自殺才有的每年一度的夏季端午節，此將令愛好節日人士大為失望。

戰國時期（西元前四一三—二二一），屈原原是周朝貴族，由於他贊成和

平解決糾紛而被驅逐出國。當他被逐放時，在悔恨下，寫下關於周朝戰亂時崩潰的詩歌。端午節即為了紀念中國失去了這位有名的詩人而來。

根據傳說，屈原抱緊一塊大石頭投河自殺，當時有一位漁夫划船設法救他，但一直不能找到他的屍體。哀悼者用竹葉包糯米投河，以使屈原靈魂得以安息。

屈原是一位中國著名的政治家及詩人。其作品包括：離騷。一般慶祝此節日是在水上進行比賽，用龍頭裝飾船，划船者及慶祝者，在船上及岸上擊銅鼓，大聲吵鬧，以趕去魔鬼。

## 二〇〇〇年在美亞裔人口將至一千萬

在一九八五年九月份有五百一十萬亞裔人居於美國。

一九八〇年人口調查統計超過三百五十萬人口，至二千年人口數字可能相等於一千萬，據統計指出，亞裔人口成長較黑人及西班牙人更快，若美國移民政策不變，至二千年可能近達一千萬，據報導說，不像早期移民的亞洲未受教育勞動者，今日的亞裔不論在學校及工作上均勝過大多數美國白人。

作者 Robert Gardner, Bryant Kobey and Peter Smith 說：「雖然有些移民——特別是最近抵達的印支難民，仍不能合乎少數民族的榜樣。許多亞裔領導人不滿意少數民族榜樣的說法。」

其他發現包括：除了越南人及一些剛到美國的人士，亞裔的職位相等於或較為美國白人高，大學畢業的男女亞裔人比率佔百分之卅五，而美國白人佔百分之十七。幾乎所有亞裔男女較為美國白人都工作，而且較為失業少。

據一九八〇年人口調查記錄，每一個亞洲人收入當中，祇有日本、中國人及亞洲印第安人的家庭收入二萬三千元，而美國人家庭收入二萬〇八百元，除了越南家庭收入一萬二千八百四十元。

在一九八〇年，百分之廿六到四十七的亞裔人士在勞工界佔有高級職業，如經理、專業和行政人員，而白人僅佔百分之廿四。

而亞美學者對於這項統計不斷挑戰，因為他們發現亞裔人士因為不明顯的障礙及歧視，造成升職的困難。例如領導階層視亞裔人士為標準少數民族，易於驅使；但不易擔任領導角色。同一樣工作，亞裔人士所拿的薪水比白人少。

上項統計基於一九八〇年人口調查而來，而後來又有一項統計係於一九八〇年來自東南亞四十萬難民。前項統計發現百分之四十九的亞裔人士集中在加州、夏威夷州，有百分之九集中在紐約。比起美國人百分之七十五，亞裔人士有百分之九十二住在大都會，如火魯奴魯、舊金山、洛杉磯、紐約市。

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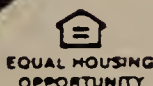
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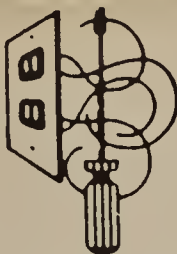
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## 車衣女工對政府行動感憤懣

P & L 衣廠關閉後最近六個月失業的車衣工人，在五月廿一日集合在聯邦政府門前，同聲申訴政府的行動。稍後約一百五十工人，大多數是亞裔婦女一行入至市府大廈，集合在波士頓公園，聆聽一班支持他們的演說者：指責市府和州府忽略、拖延了五個月進行配給車衣工人的失業金。

支持失業車衣工人委員會，工人主席 SOYUN ROE 說：「我們譴責聯邦已延遲了五個月的補助金，政府實不必致使這些婦女來爭鬧。」

P & L 衣廠因經濟問題，在去年十二月一日關閉，解僱了三百四十九個工人，其中大部份工人是居住在華埠。麻州就業部將會有規律的處理這事件，幫助這些工人因工廠關閉被免職。

DES 就業部將決定額額失業金予失業工人及審查他們的要求，例如：再給予工作的訓練，很多工人及委員會組織認為政府是怠慢而不願意進行幫助這些人復職。

社區委員會指責聯邦政府在去年較早期會迅速地協助那些關閉的工廠，例如 Colonial Provisions 出產公司。大多數人很關切車衣工人的醫療補助期至六月一日止便結束。工人支持委員會說：那些車衣工人的工會醫療補助，包括供應大多數工人的家庭，而這些工人的丈夫是被僱在餐店，多數沒有醫療補助。

Colonial Provisions 廠一位工會主管人比華蘭氏在聯邦門前說：「你必須告訴他們說，你將不離開直至你得到你應得的權利。」蘭氏指責政府的過



失是延遲的進行配給這班「因種族差別」的補助金。「那實在沒理由這般的延遲」。並不答覆這班種族差別，主要因她們是亞裔婦女。一位工人委員會代表代表全體 P & L 工人向舢舨雙週刊說：「作為一個公民我們想得到幫助，正如和其他美國公民一樣申訴，沒理由延遲了六個月。」她將看着她家庭這個月的醫療保險完全消失。她丈夫自僱為機械業，並沒有醫療保險；她母親和兩個孩子將面臨困境，登的失業金補助額只得她過去薪金的百分之六十。（大多數的車衣工人開始每年所賺的薪金約六千元一年。）

這次集會候選人美影 (Mel King) 說：「你們全部都有權利領取足夠的失業補助。」工人支持委員會說：「我們只要引起公共的注意來承擔基本上的支持，這是一次嘗試，讓別人聽到我們的心聲。從她觀點來看，自從市府與工人密議以來，對於工人的祈望反應很慢，工人支持委員會主席 Jason Hong 表示，自五月廿一日的集會促使他們有了行動，麻州勞工部秘書 Richard 對於一連串拖延支付福利，向工人支持委員會道歉 Hong 說：「早於集會前一星期，市政府設立工人支持中心。」

在發現失業金並不容易時，P & L 員工，組成工人委員會來爭取權利。工人支持委員會在其中扮演聯絡的角色，委員會其中有十五到廿個成員有親戚在成衣界工作，因為大部份工人委員會成員僅能說有限的英文，所以工人支持委員會必須收集所有資料與大眾溝通，工人委員會目前暫設立於必珠街的華人前進會內。

## 讀者投書

### 呼籲政府莫忽視華埠

最近華埠發生一連串的亞裔人士為政治奮鬥的事件。如黃龍光事件、紅燈區遷移震驚於全市及其他政府機構，而他們才警覺到對於華埠的責任，一向州政府及市政府忽視華埠的權益是因為他們認為亞裔人士政治上的沈默及語言、文化上的隔閡，造成政治選舉上不重要的選區及選民。這種態度再次顯現於 P & L 解僱車衣女工事件上。  
一九八五年十二月六日，東波士頓的 P & L 運動衣廠關閉，遣散了三百五十個工人，其中包括中國人、意大利人

和西班牙人。其中百分之六十的女工是來自中國的移民。按麻州法律，在再獲得工作之前，這些工人應予以金錢支持。而過了三個月後，明顯的，政府除了失業救濟金（一個星期四十美元）外，沒有採取任何行動，逼得這些女工只有向華人前進會求助，而組成 P & L 委員會，她們提出以下幾項要求：包括：健康保險的延長、成立再訓練基金、幫助她們找工作……等等。

相對的，在二月份倒閉的 COLO NIAL 肉包裝工廠，在關閉的三天內，州政府馬上為他們成立再訓練中心；而對 P & L 工人失業問題，在四個月內毫無動靜，這實在是很明顯的對比。要不是工人委員會組成社區會議，政府機構決不會討論到他們的問題及需要。

經過數星期的幾次 ISP 會議，事情慢慢有了轉機，這個月在 ISP 和 JCS (工作社區服務) 監督下，在華人前進會成立了工人服務中心，開始處理工人的再就業問題。

## 華埠報案熱線

波士頓警局局長羅至宣佈，提供罪行熱線服務予華人社區。

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報案者可用本國語言留下口信，翻譯員將口信轉譯及採取行動。電話召喚者無須表明自己身份，熱線服務將可供給講越語、寮語及棉語居民。  
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## 中華公所—達芙氏

### 獎學金接受申請

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填妥中華公所—達芙大學之獎學金申請表格，介紹信（向中學教師索取），及會見中華公所—達芙大學獎學金委員會之會員。

欲知更詳細消息，請到中華公所聚茜娜女士聯絡。

## 編者啓

舢舨中文版新編輯尚未上任，因此今期由多位熱心的志願人士為本刊做翻譯。本刊謹在此向下列人士致謝意：

李明

周志達